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By Dan Maines

Titus 3

Titus 3:1

Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed.

† Believers were to live in submission to governing authorities, not in rebellion. Their obedience showed that the gospel didn't produce chaos but good citizenship and good works.

† Josephus (Wars of the Jews 2.17.10) describes how zealots resisted Roman rule, bringing destruction on the nation. Paul's

instruction separated Christians from such rebellion, marking them as peacemakers.

Titus 3:2

To slander no one, not to be contentious, to be gentle, showing every consideration for all people.

† God's people were to avoid slander and quarrels. Instead, they were to be marked by gentleness and consideration. This reflected the character of Christ and stood in contrast to the harshness of the world.

† Philo (On the Virtues 51) emphasized gentleness and kindness as the highest virtues, aligning with Paul's instruction to believers.

Titus 3:3

For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

† Paul reminds them of their past. Before Christ, they too were foolish and enslaved to sin. Remembering their own past fostered humility and patience toward others.

† Seneca (Letters 95.30) confessed the universal struggle with envy and malice in Roman society. Paul connects that reality to the transformation brought by the gospel.

Titus 3:4-5

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

† Salvation came not by works but by God's mercy. His kindness appeared in Christ, who brought renewal through the Spirit. The washing of regeneration points to the cleansing work

of the gospel.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 4.20-21) spoke of a cleansing by the Spirit and renewal, showing that this hope was deeply rooted in Jewish expectation, fulfilled in Christ.

Titus 3:6

Whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.

† The Spirit was given abundantly through Christ. This gift brought transformation and life, fulfilling the promises of the prophets.

† Justin Martyr (Dialogue with Trypho 39) affirmed that the outpouring of the Spirit was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, echoing Paul's declaration.

Titus 3:7

So that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

† Justification is by grace, not works. Through Christ, believers were made heirs of eternal life, inheriting the promises of God.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.18.7) likewise taught that believers became heirs of eternal life through God's grace, not through the works of the Law.

Titus 3:8

This statement is trustworthy; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and beneficial for people.

† Paul wanted Titus to teach confidently. Sound doctrine leads to good works, which are beneficial for both the church and society.

† Pliny the Younger (Letters 10.96) described Christians as people who bound themselves to live moral lives and avoid

wrongdoing. Their good deeds confirmed Paul's instructions.

Titus 3:9

But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are useless and worthless.

† Foolish debates and disputes about the Law distracted from Christ. Titus was to avoid them, keeping the focus on the gospel.

† Josephus (Antiquities 13.10.6) describes Jewish sects constantly disputing about the Law, producing division rather than truth. Paul's warning echoes this real danger.

Titus 3:10-11

Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning, knowing that such a person has deviated from the truth and is sinning, being self-condemned.

† Persistent divisive people were to be rejected after warnings. Division reveals a corrupt heart, and such people condemned themselves by their actions.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 46) rebuked those who caused divisions in the church, warning that such people set themselves against Christ.

Titus 3:12

When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

† Paul gives travel instructions, showing the real historical context of this letter. His ministry was still active, and he wanted Titus to join him when relieved.

† Eusebius (Church History 3.4) preserves the tradition of Paul's later journeys, confirming that his ministry extended beyond Rome's first imprisonment.

Titus 3:13

Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them.

† Paul urged Titus to support fellow workers like Zenas and Apollos. The mission of the gospel was shared, and practical support was essential.

† Jerome (On Illustrious Men 53) records Apollos as a powerful preacher, confirming his prominence in the early church.

Titus 3:14

Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unproductive.

† Believers were to be productive in doing good works, meeting needs around them. This was the fruit of faith and a testimony to the gospel.

† Aristides (Apology 15) praised Christians for caring for the poor and needy, showing how they lived out Paul's instructions.

Titus 3:15

All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

† Paul closes with greetings and a blessing of grace. The fellowship of believers was central, binding them together in the love of Christ.

Application For Us Today

† Titus 3 reminds us that godly living is not about rebellion or empty arguments but about humble obedience, good works, and grace. The world still watches how we live, and our conduct can either honor or dishonor the gospel.

† Paul's warning about foolish controversies applies directly to our time. Debates over genealogies or speculative myths

parallel the endless futurist predictions and denominational squabbles of today. They're useless and distract from the truth.

† The reminder of salvation by mercy, not works, remains central. We are heirs by grace, and that grace calls us to good works that bless others and demonstrate the reality of Christ's kingdom.

† The call to reject divisive people still applies. Those who persist in stirring division and rejecting truth must be marked and avoided so the church remains healthy.

† This chapter also reminds us of the importance of supporting one another in the mission. Just as Titus was told to supply Zenas and Apollos, we too must support faithful workers today.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Matthew 16:27-28 - Christ's appearing in that generation

† 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 - Christ's victory over death

† Acts 20:28-30 - warning about false teachers entering the church

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 2.17.10 - zealots rebelling against Rome

† Philo, On the Virtues 51 - gentleness and kindness as virtues

† Seneca, Letters 95.30 - envy and malice in Roman life

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QS 4.20-21 - cleansing by the Spirit in this age

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 39 - Spirit outpoured through Christ

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.18.7 - heirs of eternal life by grace

† Pliny the Younger, Letters 10.96 - Christians bound to live moral lives

† Josephus, Antiquities 13.10.6 - disputes among Jewish sects

about the Law

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 46 - rebuke of divisive people in the church

† Eusebius, Church History 3.4 - Paul's later journeys beyond Rome

† Jerome, On Illustrious Men 53 - Apollos as a powerful preacher

† Aristides, Apology 15 - Christians caring for the poor and needy

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